

plains why the application of a stimulating liniment or of a turpentine fomentation to the loins, by drawing blood freely to the surface of the skin, relieves the congestion of the deeper tissues, and is followed for some hours by the disappearance of the albumen. It explains the occurrence of congestion of the bladder and the frequency and painful character of micturition. And once more the treatment—not by special drugs or applications, but by brisk aperients, explains why the latter so rapidly and completely relieves the local trouble.

Above all, so far as actual nursing goes, this chronic venous congestion explains why the skin of the back of the elbows and of the heels become so blue, so soft, and so liable to the rapid occurrence of bed-sores, in these cases.

Sufficient has probably been said to show the immense variety of symptoms of which an elderly patient suffering from chronic bronchitis and emphysema will probably complain. From which it is not difficult to infer the constant care and attention which these patients require. At the same time, it is wonderful how much can be done to relieve them, and, even in apparently the most hopeless cases, to bring them back to a fair measure of health and strength. The chief points to which the nurse should devote her attention will be gathered from what has just been said. The air of the patient's room must be kept as nearly as possible at the temperature directed by the doctor, for the simple reason that the roughened and raw mucous membrane of the breathing tract is extremely sensitive to changes of temperature. For the same reason, the chimney must not be allowed to smoke, nor dust to be diffused in the air of the room by the use of *dry* brooms and brushes. Care in these apparently trivial matters will make all the difference to the comfort and well-being of a bronchitic patient. Carelessness in these details may prolong illness for weeks, and increase the patient's suffering and danger to an incalculable degree. Pure air, then, is the first need, and the last necessity of every patient suffering from Bronchitis and Emphysema.

The air may be made moist by the addition of steam or impregnated with various medicated vapours as already described in these Lectures. But it must, above all things, be pure in the sense of its freedom from dust or other irritating particles.

(To be continued.)

## Medical Matters.

### PECULIAR PEOPLE.



So long as this world exists, it will probably always contain people who are more or less "peculiar;" but the people to whom the term is specially applied in this country have earned a doubtful reputation by their apparent willingness to permit their children to die without obtaining for them proper assistance, merely in order to carry out to the bitter end what they apparently consider to be, a conscientious objection to medical aid. For many years past, coroners' juries have found that persons who act in this manner towards their helpless children, are deserving of great censure. Recently, however, the increasing occurrence of grave scandals has compelled more stringent measures to be taken, and a man who recently allowed his child to die without obtaining any medical advice, was formally charged and tried for the commission of a criminal neglect of his parental duties. The jury found him guilty, but the judge considered the matter of such great public importance that he referred the legal question to the special Appeal Court for Reserved Crown cases. Six judges, headed by the Lord Chief Justice himself, after a very careful consideration then arrived at the unanimous conclusion that it was a distinct crime for a parent to "wilfully neglect a child in a manner likely to cause serious injury to it." In consequence of this decision, the man in question, who had previously allowed another child to die from want of medical assistance, was sentenced to a term of hard labour. The case is a most important one both for the medical profession and the public, and it is good that the duty of parents towards their children in cases of dangerous illness, has now been judicially defined.

### THE VACCINIA GERM.

A valuable discovery has recently been made which may have most important results to the whole community. It has, of course, been known for long that there must be a specific cause for the local and constitutional results of vaccination; and the analogy of similar diseases implied the probable existence of a specific germ. The natural question is now being asked by the public—what can be done

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